




Tabled Mr Graham
1/6/23


PARLIAMENTARY REMUNERATION AMENDMENT BILL 2023
STATEMENT OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Need: Why is the policy needed based on factual evidence and stakeholder input?

The Parliamentary Remuneration Amendment Bill 2023 (**Bill**) proposes the insertion of a new provision into the *Parliamentary Remuneration Act 1989* (**Act**) that will have the effect of freezing the basic salary of members of both Houses of Parliament (**Members**) for two years.

The Government made a commitment to the people of NSW to implement this policy if elected at the 2023 State general election.

Objectives: What is the policy's objective couched in terms of the public interest?

The Government has uncovered approximately \$7 billion in hidden costs in the budget and there are likely to be further budget pressures that it is not yet aware of. The Government is committed to spending funds on essential workers and essential services and the savings achieved by a Members' pay freeze will help fund this commitment. It is in the public interest that essential workers and essential services are adequately resourced.

Options: What alternative policies and mechanisms were considered in advance of the bill?

The Government considers that the policy is best implemented by legislative amendment.

Analysis: What were the pros/cons and benefits/costs of each option considered?

The Bill does not impose any appreciable cost or burden on the public or any group of the public and so the relative merits of alternative options have not been analysed.

Pathway: What are the timetable and steps for the policy's rollout and who will administer it?

If enacted, the provisions will be taken to have commenced on the day that the Bill was introduced to the Parliament. The provisions will mean that the Parliamentary Remuneration Tribunal may not make any determination which has the effect of increasing the amount of Members' basic salary until after 30 June 2025. The provisions will be repealed automatically at the end of the day on 30 June 2025.

Consultation: Were the views of affected stakeholders sought and considered in making the policy?

The policy was taken by the Government to the State general election in March 2023.